

**NBC BRIEFING**

**17 May 1956**

**EGYPT RECOGNIZES RED CHINA**

I. According to the Cairo Bureau of the AP, an "official statement" was issued on the evening of 16 May in amplification of the announcement that Egypt had extended diplomatic recognition to the Chinese Communists. The statement:

"The Red Chinese Government represents people numbering 600 million, or one-quarter of the world's population. Among them are 50 million Moslems.

"Red China took part with the Asian-African nations in the Bandung Conference and the most prominent of the decisions taken at this conference were for the liquidation of colonialism, and to give colonial countries the right of self-determination, and to oppose military pacts, which stand in the way of the principal of co-existence.

"This falls in line with Egypt's policy of neutrality and independence."

II. At present there are two Chinese Communist visiting groups in Egypt, a 19-man trade delegation and a 70-member "cultural troupes". A year ago, a three-year trade agreement was signed between the two.

III. At 0930 on 17 May (Taipei time), AFP reported that the Chinese Nationalists had broken relations with Egypt.

IV. Egyptian recognition of Peiping suggests an increasing degree of Soviet Bloc political influence on Egypt, in the wake of the arms deals.

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- A. While the Egyptian statement emphasizes the old cliches regarding colonialism, the specific reference to "military pacts" (i.e. SEATO, the Baghdad Pact) as consideration in the Egyptian action is probably of greater significance.

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